

Remarks

Claims 1-41 are currently pending and stand rejected. Cancellation is hereby proposed for claims 1-30. Applicants assert that claims 31-41 are in condition for allowance after final as set forth more fully below. Applicants request that the finality of the rejections be withdrawn and/or that a Notice of Allowability be provided.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner June 2005. During the interview, deficiencies in the Sitaraman reference were discussed relative to subject matter of the present application. Namely, it was discussed that Sitaraman discloses a transfer from a source database system to a target database system where during the transfer, a source adapter receives the data from a source adapter and performs a validation on the data prior to it transferring to a target adapter of a target database system. It was further discussed that the result of validation is not transferred back to the source database system, as the validated data is transferred on to the target database system where it becomes converted to a format incompatible with the source such that there is no reason result of validation returned to the source, and if not validated, an alert is provided to an operator that is left further unspecified. The Examiner suggested that the source and the target could be one in the same so that the validated data was actually being returned to the source such that it would be relevant to return the result of the validation to the source, but the undersigned disputed that such was the case.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 10-11, 19-20, 31,32, 37-38, and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Sitaraman et al (US Pat. 6,085,030). The Office Action states that Sitaraman discloses all of the elements of these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In consideration of the proposed cancellation, the remaining independent claims all provide for an application server or other computer generating a request for data validation that includes the data to be validated and then the result of the validation is returned to the computer that has generated the request. As a representative example,

claim 31 recites, in part, an application server, the application server in communication with the data network to receive data within validation requests for validation of the initial form of the data and wherein the application server compares the initial form of the data to a reference and returns an indication of valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matches the reference, at least one application that utilizes the data in a particular form corresponding to the reference, the application in communication with the application server, the application providing validation requests and data in the initial form to the application server via the data network...wherein said application server processes the validation requests and returns a response of valid or invalid to the applications according to said validation functions stored in said data schema for comparing the initial form of the data to the reference.

Sitaraman fails to disclose all of these elements. Sitaraman is concerned with a source database system attempting to transfer data to a target database system. Because the source database system has the data in a format different than what is useful to the target computer, the data must be converted from one format to another by a converter of a target adapter once it is sent from a source adapter to the target adapter. Once converted, it is provided to the target database system by the target adapter. Prior to the transfer to the target adapter, the source adapter may perform a validation on the record contents and if valid, the data is passed on to the target adapter and if invalid, an alert is sent to an unspecified operator. At no point does one system request validation and send the data to be manipulated with the request and then the response of valid or invalid is returned to the system that sent the request.

Furthermore, the context of Sitaraman dictates that the source database system and the target database system are not one and the same. It is explicitly described as two different systems, with each one utilizing data in a different format, and where each one communicates via the adapters over a network connection such as an intranet connection or the Internet. It is illogical based on the described context of Sitaraman that the source and target systems are the same, such that since the validated data is being sent from the source adapter to the target adapter for conversion to a format different than that in use by the source adapter, it is not relevant to the source adapter that the data was found to be valid and ready for conversion by the target adapter of the target database system.

Because Sitaraman fails to disclose each and every element of the independent claims, claims 31-41 are allowable over Sitaraman for at least these reasons. Dependent claims depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 3-9, 12-18, 21-35, and 39 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sitaraman in view of Whitehead (US Pat 6,085,030). Claims 36 and 41 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sitaraman in view of Allen (US Pat 6,078,918). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As discussed above, all claims 31-41 provide that the result of the validation data is returned to that which has sent the request for validation along with the data to be validated. In relation to claim 36, it specifically recites, in part, means for receiving a service request from a customer, wherein the customer requests a validation service to determine whether data in an initial form is valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matches a reference that corresponds to and couples data to said system in the form of hashtables,... means for sending a validation result including the indication of whether the data is valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matched the reference from the application server to said customer based at least in part on the validation request.

As discussed above, Sitaraman does not provide for returning the result including the indication of whether the data is valid or invalid to the source system that is transferring the data, and the source system and the target system are not one and the same. Furthermore, it is illogical based on the context of Sitaraman that the validated data and hence the result of validation would be returned to the source since the source has already possessed and utilized the data in the pre-conversion and pre-validation format. Furthermore, neither Whitehead nor Allen account for these deficiencies in Sitaraman such that claim 36 and these dependent claims are also allowable over the cited combinations for at least these reasons.

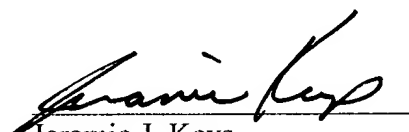
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 31-41 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the proposed after final amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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